

Thank you for inviting me here today. My name is Kim Kann. I was blessed to raise my 3 sons on a small family farm in rural Lancaster County, PA, and grateful to be able to give my sons the perfect childhood haven.....a stream for building dams, hidden campsites for sleeping outside, a small pasture for a few horses that could teach them about patience and responsibility. Nothing was handed to us. Everything was the product of careful spending, self-reliance and hard work. The dream was to pass the property on to my boys.

In spring of 2014 my community was stunned to learn that Williams Partners intended to force a gigantic 42", 1580 psi natural gas pipeline through our community. First we studied exactly what that meant. We found the proposal brought no benefit to us, and much harm. We opposed it. 1700 of 2300 registered voters returned petitions saying so. From the laundry list of harms we were facing, the issue of eminent domain was the most egregious. How could American landowners be forced to surrender their homes to a profit making corporation, while being forced to pay real estate tax on the land they no longer owned forever?

My narrow 20 acre farm will now be cut in half. The far 10 acres is only accessible by crossing the right of way that will be controlled by Williams. The bedrooms will now be in the hazard zone which guarantees catastrophic burns or death in the event of an explosion. My story is echoed by neighboring landowners, 36 who had refused to sign easements in Lancaster County. People like John and Deb Swanson who own a small farm. Much of their land will be taken, and their home will lie well within the hazard

zone. John is a proud Marine veteran who served America with honor. The country he defended is planning to allow a private corporation to take land that has been in his family for generations. Or David and Laura Banta who will have the pipeline pass feet from their bedrooms. Or Linda Like has owned a small tract of farmland she planned to sell for building lots to finance her approaching retirement...no one can build on it, so retirement is no longer in her plans. She is trying to sell, but no one is interested.

We get that sometimes land needs to be taken for the benefit of the community. So we looked for benefits. There were none locally, and beyond that we found negatives that outweighed the positives. We hired pipeline feasibility expert Dennis Witmer, whose results can be found in the youtube video A Perspective on Natural Gas Markets, who found there was no domestic demand. In fact, we currently enjoy low natural gas prices because there is a glut. There is no local access, so our community and our neighbors cannot connect into the line. Claims of jobs are misleading, as most workers come from far out of state. And how do you justify supporting new job to create wealth for some, at the expense of other hard working American citizens?

We discovered our beloved preserved farms, with world class soils, 106 supposedly protected for eternity with tax dollars and private donations, were targeted because of their open space and reduced land value. We started following the news and saw catastrophic pipeline failures in San Bruno, CA, Appomattox VA, Salem Twp., PA, Sissonville, WV, and just this week in Baton Rouge, LA where two are gravely injured and one is presumed dead, to name just a few. This raises the risk of evacuation,

contamination, catastrophic explosion or death in our community from 0 to something much higher. The route through my township of Conestoga passes through 4 state registered Native American cultural sites, and 86 recognized on the route. We learned fracking was contaminating water and frack waste is dangerous to dispose of. And natural gas is not as clean as advertised since leaking methane is over 80 times worse as a contributor to climate warming than carbon.

I would like to quote directly from the GOP platform for 2016 defining the American Dream. "It means a decent place to live, a safe place to raise kids, a welcoming place to retire. It bespeaks the quiet pride of those who work hard to shelter their family and, in the process, create caring neighborhoods."

The reality of a decent, safe, guaranteed place to live is about to be ripped away from us... many of us. If 30,000 more miles of new pipeline are slated for PA as John Quigley told State Impact in July of 2015, and using the ASP landowner per mile ratio from my county, simple math shows over 137,000 PA landowners could face seizure of their private property.

And as powerful corporations profit from the gas that flows, they will pay inflated executive salaries and dividends to shareholders. The reality is our financial assets, will be seized and redistributed. That sounds like corporate welfare at its worst.

This is what it has come to. In our small, very conservative town, in just 3 weeks, over 500 local residents have pledged to participate in non-violent civil disobedience to stop this project. And their numbers are growing daily. Although framed as radicals, and far left crazies, they are really just counselors, ministers, construction workers, students, grandparents, farmers, teachers, many Republican and a few Democrats, mostly who never protested anything, but believe the sacred right of land ownership is worthy of protecting. And now that they are awake and informed, expect them on your phones, at your offices and speaking at your town hall meetings.

You are charged, each of you, Republican and Democrat with finding a solution to this issue. Citizens are no longer willing to tolerate the abuse of eminent domain to line the pockets of others.